GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3144
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Literacy Gap
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is a considerable gap between the literacy rate of total population and Scheduled Caste population in States with high SC population;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of graduates from Scheduled Caste population?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a) & (b) As per Census 2011, the gap between literacy rate of all castes (72.98%) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) (66.07%) at national level is 6.91 percentage points. There are 13 States/UTs which have SCs population higher than the national average of SCs population (16.5%). A statement indicating the literacy rates of all castes, SCs and their gap in these 13 States/UTs is annexed.
(c) Government has taken several measures to increase the enrolment of SCs in higher education. The University Grants Commission implements several schemes/measures such as Rajiv Gandhi National fellowships for SC students, post graduate scholarships for SC students, post-doctoral fellowships for SC students, coaching schemes for SC students, establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells and Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy centres in universities, etc.
Besides, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs also have scholarship schemes for SC students like Post-Matric scholarship for SC students, Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top class Education for SC students and National Overseas Scholarship for SC students.
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